

Claim 18. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the foam cores are of regular six-sided block shape and the steps are arranged in a six-step stair.

5 Claim 19. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein at least one of the steps is in the shape of a right wedge and the steps are arranged in a ramped configuration.

Claim 20. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein at least one of the steps is in the shape of a trapezoidal block and the steps are arranged in a ramped configuration.

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Please reconsider claims 10-20 as discussed below.

II. REMARKS

In response to the Official Action, the Applicant has amended the claims by 15 canceling claims 1-9 and rewriting claims 10, 11, 13, and 15 to comply with the requirements set forth in the Office Action. Claims 10-20 are now pending in the application. Applicant hereby requests reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

20 Claim 13 stands objected to because of the informality of the word "such" instead of "said." Claim 13 has been rewritten to replace the word "such" with the word "said" and is now allowable as amended.

Claims 6, 7, and 10-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner specifically states that the specification is silent to the fact that the hook-and-loop fasteners are permanently mounted to the cover. Claims 6 and 7 have been canceled. Claims 10-20 5 are discussed later.

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner specifically states that the limitation of "the seams" does not have sufficient antecedent basis. Claim 5 has been canceled.

Claims 1-6, 8, and 9 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blake (U.S. Patent No. 5,086,530). Claims 1-7 also stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Masoncup (US Patent No. 5,638,562). Claims 1-9 have been canceled.

Claims 10-20 stand allowable if rewritten to overcome the 112 rejection above 15. The applicant maintains that the permanency of the fasteners does not constitute "new matter," (i.e., there is support in the applicant's specification as filed on page 3, lines 13-17, page 5, lines 10-14, and page 6, line 23 through page 7, line 4) and that the words "systematic, strategic, and specific" as used herein have antecedent support in the specification and explain the use of the fasteners in the applicant's invention. Claims 20 10, 11, 13, and 15 have been rewritten to comply with the Examiner's requirement, and claims 12, 14, and 16-20 depend from the rewritten claims. Claims 10-20 are believed allowable as amended or originally filed, and that action is respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing, claims 10-20 as amended or as originally filed are in condition for full allowance, and that action is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that a phone interview would be helpful, she is respectfully requested to contact the Applicant's attorney, Polly Oliver, at (253) 929-5 1534.

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Respectfully Submitted,


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